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**Clark County Combined Health District- Health Message**  
**Avian Influenza Detected in Ohio Flocks**  
**December 13, 2023**

Avian influenza has been [detected in poultry flocks in Ohio](#), and state agricultural partners have responded to prevent spread to other poultry populations. As a part of public health efforts to monitor influenza in the United States, and to be able to respond quickly in the event it was needed, public health officials actively monitor people who have been exposed to birds or poultry infected with avian influenza. Monitoring after exposure facilitates rapid testing, and characterization of the virus if needed, in the event that any symptoms develop.

[Avian influenza](#), also called bird flu, can impact wild birds, particularly waterfowl and predatory birds, as well as commercial and backyard poultry. Some wild birds, notably waterfowl (such as ducks and mallards) can carry flu viruses without appearing sick, while others may get very sick or die. People may come into contact with infected birds through a variety of activities, including hunting, backyard flocks that may be exposed to wild birds, or occupational exposure for poultry workers. The risk to the general public from bird viruses is low and human infections with bird flu viruses are rare.

While the risk of acquiring avian influenza, or bird flu, is low for members the general public, the Ohio Department of Health encourages individuals to avoid direct contact with dead wild birds, receive the seasonal flu shot to reduce the risk of getting sick with human viruses, and stay home if they become sick. Poultry workers should wear any personal protective equipment, such as gloves or masks, as recommended for their specific job duties; poultry workers who may have been exposed to avian influenza and experience symptoms of [flu](#) (fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, etc.), should contact their primary care provider and [local health department](#).

Healthcare providers who have a patient showing signs and symptoms of flu and a history of recent contact with ill birds should report to their [local health department](#). Local health departments should report suspect human cases of avian or novel influenza to the Ohio Department of Health at 614-722-7221.

If you are receiving this health message via fax, please visit the CCCHD website (<https://ccchd.com/for-healthcare-providers/>) or follow the QR code below to view a digital copy with clickable links. If you wish to receive health alerts electronically in the future, please contact [hlecaptain@ccchd.com](mailto:hlecaptain@ccchd.com).

**Message Details**

**Date:** 12/13/2023

**Time Sensitivity:** Not Urgent

**To:** Medical offices, Urgent Cares, Clinics, Hospitals, Laboratories and ICPs

**Target Audience:** Physicians, PA, NP, Nurses, Medical Staff, ICP staff, and Laboratorians

**Relevance to Public Health:** High Concern

